Ratification of ILO convention

2362. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state whether Government are proposing to ratify ILO convention No. 87, 98, 105 and 182 as these ILO conventions are included in 7 core labour standards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): Government proposes to ratify ILO Convention No. 105 concerning Abolition of Forced Labour. A Statement to this effect has been laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 1.3.2000 and in the Rajya Sabha on 9.3.2000. Guarantees provided for in Conventions No. 87 concerning Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise and No. 98 concerning Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining are by and large available to workers in this country. However, the Government is unable to ratify these two Conventions mainly due to the reasonable restrictions imposed on government servants in the country through service rules and regulations. Tripartite and inter-ministerial consultations are in progress with a view to take a decision on the ratification of ILO convention No. 182 concerning Worst Forms of Child Labour.

ILO norm for fixing wages

2363. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether International Labour Organisations has fixed any norm and quantum for fixing minimum wages for skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled labourers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how it compares with Indian norms fixed by Government and each state?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) the International Labour Organisation have adopted Convention No. 26 concerning Minimum Wages Fixing Machinery and Convention No. 131 concerning Minimum Wage Fixing. Convention No. 26 envisages that a ratifying country should create or maintain machinery whereby minimum rates of wages can be fixed for workers employed in certain of the trades in which no arrangement exists for the effective regulation of wages by collective agreement or otherwise and wages are exceptionally low. In

accordance with convention No. 131 the needs of workers and their families and economic factors including the requirements of economic development and high level of employment are the elements to be taken into consideration while determining the level of minimum wages. Neither of these Conventions specify the actual minimum wages to be paid to any categories of workers in member states. India has ratified Convention No. 26 but not Convention No. 131.

ESI Hospitals at Triupathi and Nizamabad

2364. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether ESI hospitals at Tirupathi and Nizamabad are not having full fledged medical facilities; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to expand their activities for the benefits of local labourers covered under ESI benefits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) The responsibility for administration of medical care under the ESI Scheme vests in die State Government/ Union Territory Administrations except in Delhi and NOIDA where it is being administered directly by the ESIC. The ESI hospitals at Tirupathi and Nizamabad were commissioned recently. The medical facilities for out-patient services and inpatient service for medical, surgical and diagnostic purposes are available in the ESI hospital at Tirupathi.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has planned to provide endoscopy, neurology and cardiology services in the hospital at Tirupathi. In Nizamabad ESI hospital specialist out-patient services have been started with effect from 3.2.2000. Necessary action is already being taken by the Government of Andhra Pradesh to start all in-patient services in the hospital at Nizamabad.

Central legislation for workers

2365. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration for enactment of Central Legislation to safeguard the interests of workers engaged in agriculture and construction works; and